B. PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS DURING THE ORRESPONDING MARKETING SEASONS 2004-05, 2005-06 AND 2006-07.

(in lakh tonnes)

Rabi Marketing Season	Wheat	Kharif Marketing Season	Rice	Jowar	Bajra	Maize	Ragi
2004-05	167.95	2004-05	246.85	0.12	1.35	6.31	0.49
2005-06	147.85	2005-06	276.57	0.67	0.05	10.16	0.66
2006-07	92.26	2006-07#	192.67	0.002			

#As on 28.2.2007.

Import of wheat

1228. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to import wheat this year to meet the demand: and

(b) what is the total quantity of wheat to be imported and at what cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Cheating of consumers

1229 SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS. FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of many companies cheating customers on BIS/ISI marks: and

(b) if so, the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Misuse of ISI Mark is checked by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

by conducting enforcement raids on regular basis as per the provisions of the BIS Act and rules and regulations framed thereunder. During the current financial year 2006-07 (upto 31/01/07), 136 raids were conducted by BIS to check the misuse of ISI mark. Upto 31-01-07, 163 cases have been launched for prosecution which includes the prosecution resulting out of the raids conducted during previous years also. In order to further strengthen the enforcement activity, two outside agencies have been appointed to gather information about the misuse of ISI Mark and also to help in conducting raids on such places.

Foodgrains to poor people in hilly/tribal/backward areas

1230.SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any special programme and scheme for providing foodgrains to the poor living in hilly/tribal/backward areas of the country particularly in the North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of various schemes being implemented at present by Government in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Government has introduced the Village Grain Banks Scheme to provide safeguard against starvation during the period of natural calamities in food scarce areas which cover people living in tribal areas, inaccessible hilly areas, drought prone areas and the hot and cold desert areas. Details of the scheme are given in Statement (See below).

(cj Apart from the Village Grain Banks Scheme, Government of India has been allocating foodgrains for people living under Below Poverty Line (BPL), Above Poverty Line.(APL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) under Targeted Public Distribution System and various other following Welfare Schemes:

1. Mid day Meal, (administered by Ministry of Human Resource, Development).